

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Amended drawing pages 1/7 and 2/7 are presented with this paper. Specifically Figures 1 and 2 have been amended to include legends as required by the Examiner under Item 3 of the office action.

REMARKS

This paper is filed in response to the Office Action mailed 23 May 2005. Claims 1-20 were pending in the application. Claims 1, 3, 5 and 11 have been amended. Claim 2 has been canceled. Claims 21 – 39 have been added. Therefore, claims 1, 3 – 39 are now pending in the application and are submitted for reconsideration.

Objections to the Disclosure:

The description was objected to because it failed to indicate the application number and filing date of the referenced application. This information has now been added together with an indication that the referenced application is now abandoned. In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objections to the disclosure.

Objections to the Drawings:

Figures 1 and 2 were objected to because they failed to contain appropriate legends. An amended version of Figures 1 and 2 is attached as described above. The legends used correspond to the designation as described by the respective reference numeral within the body of the description. No further subject matter is added by such amendments.

Figure 5 has not been further amended as suggested by the Examiner. Figure 5 is incorporated by reference into the present application from another application by the same inventors. The referenced US application has subsequently become abandoned. Applicant does not believe that the content of Figure 5 is prior art to the present patent application.

Applicants respectfully request an indication that the proposed amendments are acceptable.

Rejection of Claims 1-20:

Claims 5-8 and 11-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite. Appropriate corrections as suggested by the Examiner have been effected.

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by United Kingdom patent application GB2151801 to Cassidy and United States patent No. US 6,006,615 to Uttinger.

In response to this objection, present claim 1 has been amended by the introduction of the features of claim 2 into claim 1. Additionally, the claim has been clarified to specify that

the device is for monitoring a cleaning process and that there is a cleaning system controlled by the computer and responsive to the temperature signal or the parameter signal to perform the selected stages. These features are disclosed in the description and figures, see e.g. references 5 and 10 in Figure 1 and their operation is disclosed on page 7, from line 25 to line 32 and on page 12, from line 1 to page 14, line 29.

In this manner, according to the invention, an operator may easily select different cleaning stages according to e.g. the degree of cleaning required. The cleaning system is responsive to the computer and in this manner it is possible to monitor where necessary the temperature and electrical parameter to ascertain whether the cleaning stages are performed correctly.

Applicants respectfully submit that nothing in the art of record teaches or suggests the present invention. In particular, according to Cassidy, the cleaning cycle consists of a set number of steps. The Examiner has provided no indication that a number of stages may be selected or that structure is provided for carrying out such selected stages. Neither is any indication given as to why the skilled person would consider adapting Cassidy to provide such a possibility. Similar considerations apply in the light of EP 0761 091 to van den Berg which also discloses a 3-phase process for cleaning milk lines.

The present invention is also considered to be distinguished over Uttinger, since this reference apparently relates to monitoring milk storage. The examiner has given no indication as to how the teaching of this document could be applied to cleaning processes.

Claims 3 to 20 depend from claim 1. These claims are thus considered patentable on the basis of that dependency.

New claims 21 to 39 have been filed in order to more clearly define the method by which the present invention is put into effect. These claims rely on substantially similar features to those of claim 1 and are thus considered to relate to one and the same invention. They are also considered to be distinguished over the prior art for the reasons indicated above. Entry and allowance of these claims is hereby respectfully requested.

With reference to item 17 of the Examiner's rejection, the copending application No 10/604,619 is now abandoned. As a consequence, we kindly request the Examiner to withdraw this provisional objection.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of claims 1 and 2 to 39.

Any extension of time that may be deemed necessary to further the prosecution of this application is hereby requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 08-3038, referencing the docket number shown above.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the number given below in order to resolve any questions.

Respectfully submitted,



David P. Owen
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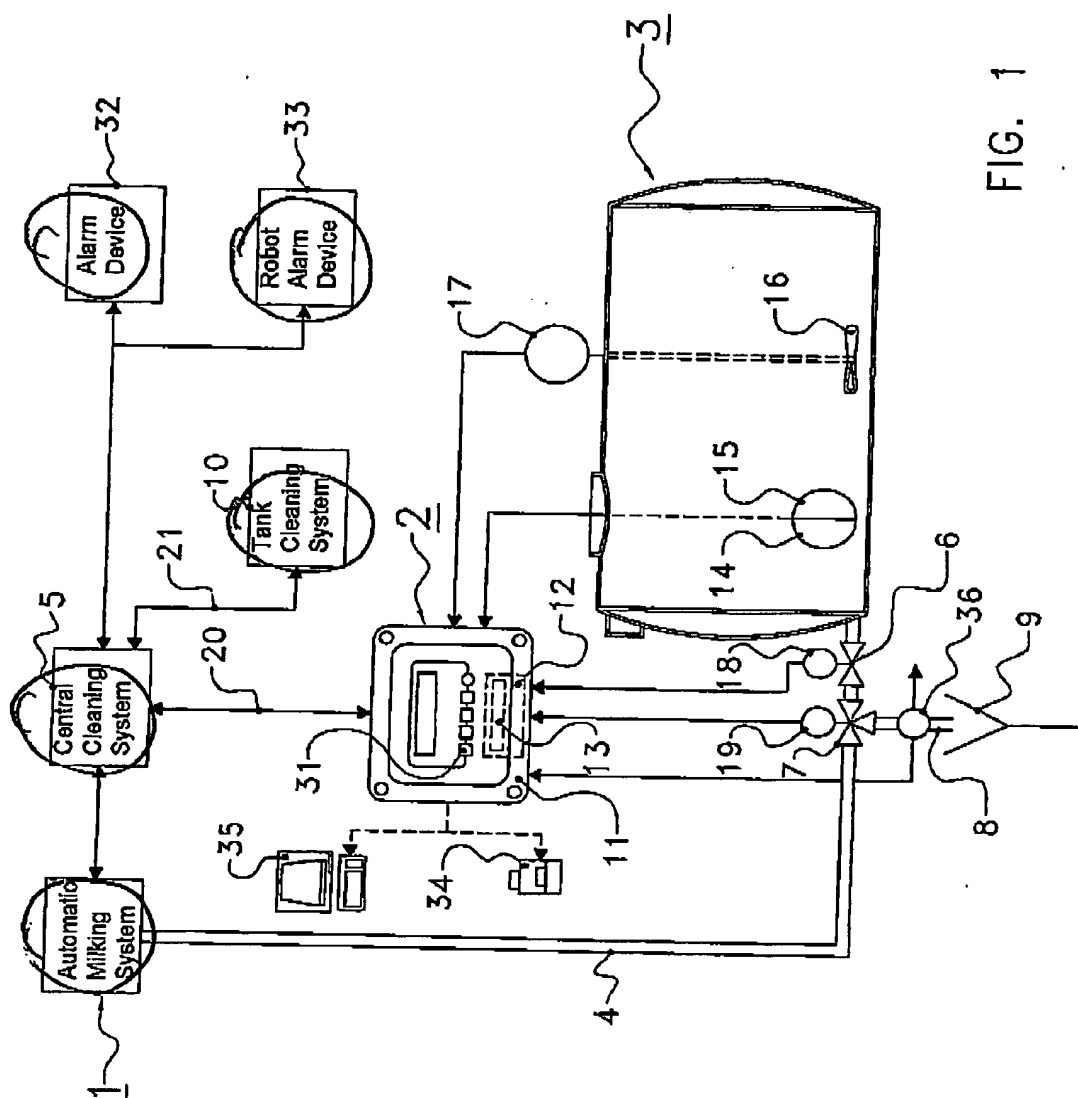
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Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

1/7



Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

2/7

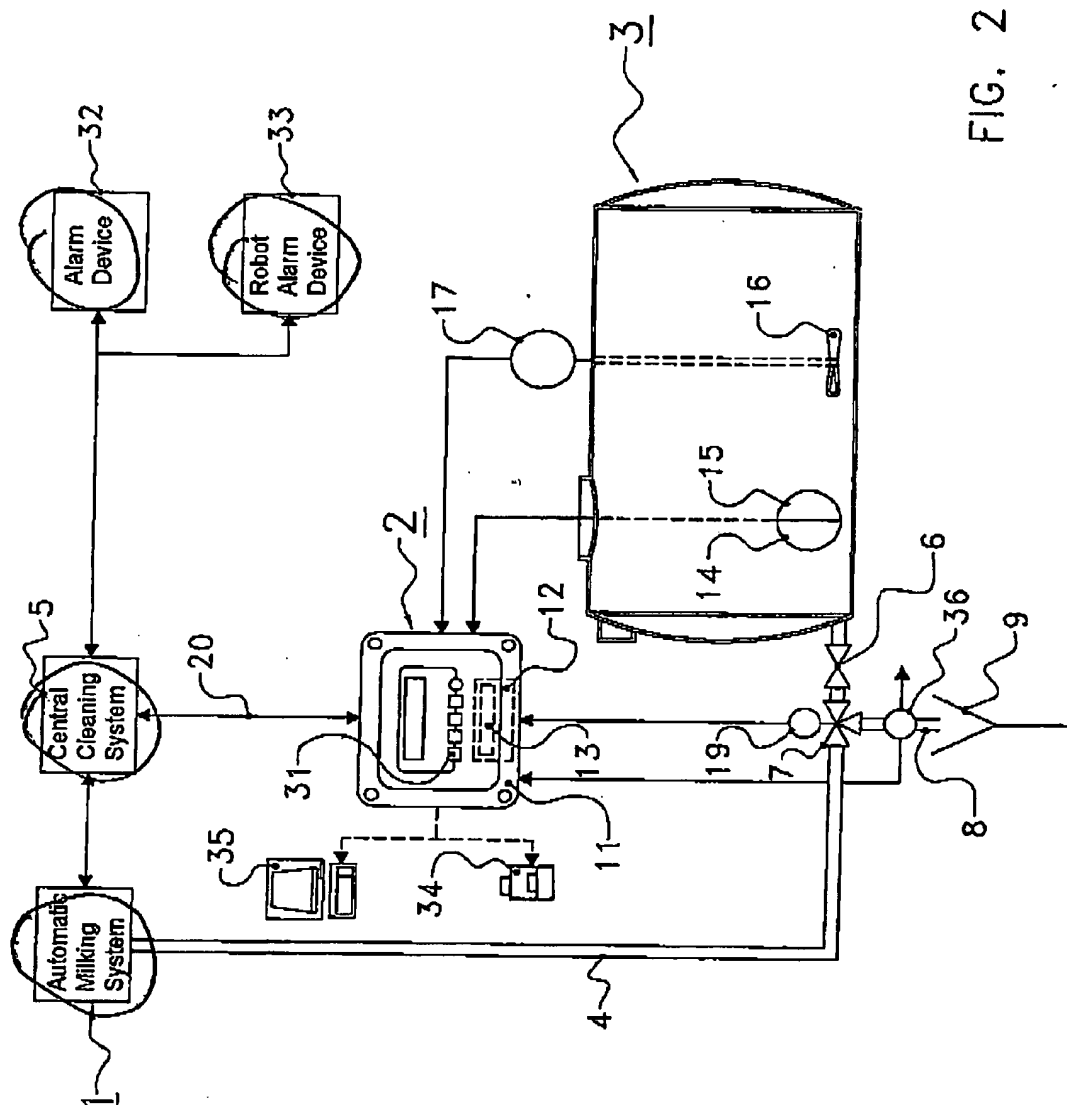


FIG. 2